Wal-Mart fills quickly following gala opening

By BILL COOKE

Rockdale's largest retail outlet—Wal-Mart Discount City—opened its doors to hundreds of shoppers at 9 a.m. Tuesday, and they kept on coming throughout the day despite a wind and rain storm that hit the city about 11:30 a.m.

"We're very pleased with Rockdale's response," store manager David Worth said, "and look forward to meeting more and more people every day."

Pretty, petite Miss Lynn Clayton, the reigning Miss Rockdale Fair, officially snipped the bright red ribbon to open the 43,200-square-foot firm, to the applause of some 78 Wal-Mart employees plus numerous Chamber of Commerce and city officials.

Mayor Pro Tem Bill Avrett represented the City of Rockdale in issuing an official welcome to Wal-Mart, noting that "this really puts our town in a new classification now; it's a red-letter day, and this type of business has been, a lot of us feel, long overdue in Rockdale."

State Rep. Dan Kubiak also issued a welcome as did Chamber of Commerce president Harold Love. Chamber manager Marcie Reynolds was on hand, along with Chamber secretary Jody Bodiford and a number of Chamber directors and committee workers.

The grand opening was broadcast live over radio station KMIL of Cameron, with station announcer Charles McGregor serving as master of ceremonies.

Prior to the ribbon-cutting, various Wal-Mart officials took turns speaking to the some 78 Wal-Mart employees. They were cheered as they credited the store's work force with an outstanding job of stocking and preparing the store for the Tuesday opening.

"Of the last six stores we have opened," one official said, "this crew has done the best; it's a big task, but these people did a super job."

Wal-Mart, one of the nation's fastest-growing retail discount chains, markets primarily outside the metropolitan areas. Geared to providing "big city-type discount shopping," they are located primarily in small towns and are generally the largest non-grocery firm in their towns.

For more about Wal-Mart Discount City, see the following pages.

Rockdale Reporter/Bill Cooke

Parking lot fills for Wal-Mart opening here Tuesday morning.

Rockdale Reporter/Bill Cooke

Early-bird shoppers check out bargains on opening day.

Rockdale Reporter/Bill Cooke

Merchandise galore in 43,200-square-foot Rockdale store

The Abundant Life . . . . . .

by Terry Northcutt

America the Moral

Mass media in America today portrays the typical American as one who is sexually promiscuous, alcohol dependent, and totally profane in language. Homosexuality is now being accepted as nothing more than an "alternative life style," and last week a two part serial on television glorified incest. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for the very same attitudes and practices!

The Bible speaks to such a morally decadent society as America today. Paul wrote in I Thessalonians 4:3-8,

> It is God's will that you should be holy; that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

Two points should be made in connection with this scripture. First, when one rejects moral, Biblical principles, he does not rebel against society, or tradition, or the status quo; he rebels against God! Second, those who choose such a lifestyle do so not because they want to slap God in the face (most do not realize they do so), but because they do not see the joy of a holy life. Fun is viewed as cheap, fleeting, superficial lust. Lasting joy, however, brings peace and a sense of purpose to life. As Paul said in Colossians 3:15, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to be. And be thankful."

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SUNDAY
Bible School 9:30 A.M.
Worship Assembly 10:30 A.M.
Worship Assembly 6:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY
Ladies Bible Class 10:00 A.M.
(Except June thru August)
Bible Study 7:30 P.M.

Two hospitalized following wreck

Two Milam County men remained in serious condition in a Temple hospital over the weekend as a result of injuries sustained in an auto accident while fleeing Thorndale Police Chief Jack Brown.

Antonio Luna, 17, of Rockdale and Armando Robles, 21, of Cameron, were rushed to Richards Memorial Hospital by EMS ambulance after the 10:36 p.m. Friday accident at the FM 1786 underpass (US 79 Alcoa turnoff) and were later transferred to Scott and White Hospital.

Both men were suffering from internal, neck and head injuries, in addition to severe cuts, and Robles suffered an eye injury, DPS State Trooper Don Wardlow said.

Wardlow said Brown attempted to stop the auto, driven by Luna, in Thorndale, citing "numerous traffic violations."

Brown said the auto refused to pull over and he pursued it at speeds up to 80 miles per hour. "When the auto reached FM 1786 it turned right and struck a cement underpass support," Wardlow said.

Wardlow said the auto was totaled.

A minor accident occurred at the same location around 11 p.m. Wardlow said two pickups collided, one driven by volunteer fireman Don Miller of Rockdale who had responded to the call of the initial wreck. Other pickup was driven by Darla Smith of Rockdale.

No injuries were reported and damage to both pickups was termed moderate.

No injuries were reported in a one-vehicle accident at 9:15 a.m. Tuesday on FM 487 one mile south of Rockdale.

Wardlow said the auto involved, driven by Deborah Harrell of Rockdale, sustained moderate damage when it left the road and struck a culvert.

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Meet the managers

Worth Wal-M

David Worth has been named manager of the new 43,200-square-foot Wal-Mart Discount City store in Rockdale.

Worth joined Wal-Mart in March, 1975, as an assistant manager in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Subsequently, he has served as assistant manager in Hugo, Oklahoma, Lufkin, Texas and Camden, Arkansas.

A native Oklahoman, Worth is a graduate of Northeastern State College, Tahlequah, where he earned his degree in sociology and business. He and his wife, Shirley, and two sons, David and Richard, will reside in Rockdale.

ASSISTANT MANAGERS

There will be two assistant

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